

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claim 1 is pending in this application.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention recited. Support for these amendments, for example, may be found in FIG. 1A. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,065,227 ("Frankeny"). Claim 1 has been amended. To the extent this rejection may still apply to the amended claim 1, it is respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to a stock sheet for fabricating multilayer flexible wiring board. The plurality of wiring patterns corresponding to the individual layers of a multilayer flexible wiring board are arranged on one side of the sheet-like substrate in the direction perpendicular to the transporting direction.

According to embodiments of the invention, the dimensional changes in individual layers during manufacturing process can be homogenized and alignment of connecting electrodes in the individual layers can be precisely positioned.

As shown in FIG. 1A, the individual layers (to be assembled into the same multilayer board) are aligned on one side of the sheet in a direction (Layer Arrangement direction) perpendicular to the transport direction (arrow P) of the sheet. (See specification p. 7, ll, 6-9). In this arrangement, individual layers of the same multilayer wiring board are processed at the same time when the sheet is transported to the processing site. This eliminates or minimizes possible dimensional variations (due to different temperature or humidity during processing) in the flexible substrate sheet or the mask. As a result, the individual layers can be precisely aligned to form the multilayer wiring board. (See specification p. 6, l. 4 through p. 7, l. 5).

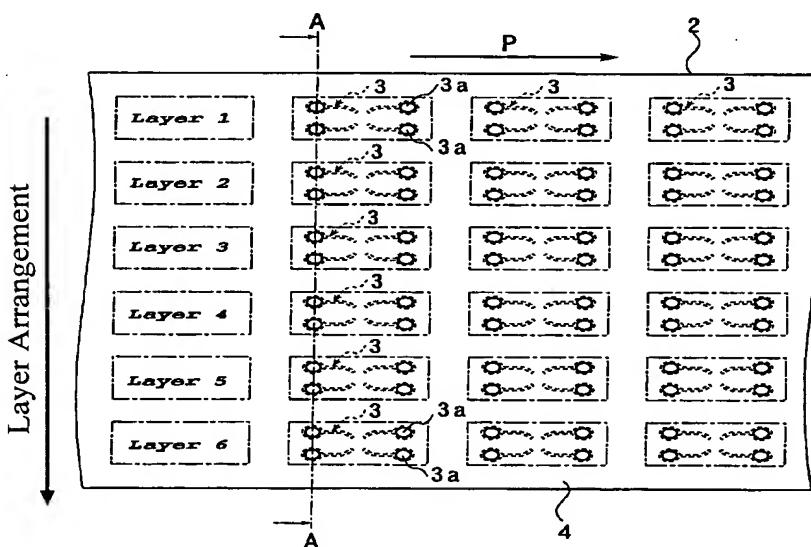


FIG. 1A

Claim 1 recites a stock sheet for a multilayer flexible wiring board in accordance with one embodiment of the invention as described above. The stock sheet recited in claim 1 comprises: a flexible *sheet-like substrate* configured to be transported in a predetermined direction, and a plurality of wiring patterns arranged *on same side of the substrate* in a direction perpendicular to the predetermined direction, wherein the plurality of wiring patterns correspond to individual layers of a multilayer flexible wiring board.

In contrast, Frankeny discloses a multilayer, flexible substrate upon which integrated circuit chips can be attached. The substrate of Frankeny comprises multiple layers (multiple

sheets); it is not a “sheet-like” substrate. Furthermore, each of the plurality of wiring patterns in Frankeny is arranged on a different layer – they are not arranged on the same side of a sheet-like substrate.

The Examiner cites Fig. 6 of Frankeny as disclosing a stock sheet (64) and col. 6 lines 5-15 of Frankeny for disclosing a sheet-like substrate. It is clear from both Fig. 6 and the cited portion of text that the substrate of Frankeny is a multiple layer substrate, which is distinct from the sheet-like substrate recited in claim 1 of the instant invention. The multiple layer substrate of Frankeny is a multiple-sheet-like (or a book-like) substrate. Furthermore, Frankeny does not teach or suggests that a plurality of wiring patterns are arranged on the same side of the sheet-like substrate.

To anticipate, a prior art reference must teach every limitation of the claim. Because Frankeny fails to teach or suggest “a flexible *sheet-like substrate*” or “a plurality of wiring patterns arranged *on same side* of the substrate,” as recited in claim 1, the amended claim 1 is patentable over Frankeny. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03310.023001).

Respectfully submitted,

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